

**13611 160th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052**

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Department of Justice has finally ended its pursuit of the Microsoft Corporation. A proposed settlement was reached between the two last November, and I am in full support of it. Now my government will be able to focus its attention on more pressing matters than Microsoft.

The settlement that has been reached is more than fair to all parties involved, and I urge you to approve it as soon as possible. Microsoft will now be communicating more with their competitors than ever before, which will provide the IT industry with the necessary boost it needs. They have agreed to share design information with their competitors concerning the internal make-up of the Windows operating system, and I will make future versions of Windows that will make it easier for companies to manipulate the operating system and install their own software into it.

All in all, this settlement benefits the industry and economy and should be implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Reginald L. Armfield